

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1056
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL MILAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10458

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, IR
SUBJECT: NEW IRANIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN MILAN

REF: TEHRAN 5936

1. ONE OF THE MORE RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE MEXICO CITY DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, PANAHİ HAS ALWAYS BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH US EMBASSY OFFICIALS. OPEN AND FRANK, HE IS ABLE TO CONVERSE ON A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS AND IS ESPECIALLY WELL VERSED IN THE INTRICACIES OF THE ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT.

2. AS DCM OF IRAN'S EMBASSY IN MEXICO, PANAHİ ACTED AS CHARGE FOR THE MAJOR PART OF THE THREE YEARS THAT HE SPENT HERE. THESE THREE YEARS SAW A STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND MEXICO AND INCLUDED THE OPENING OF AN EMBASSY IN MEXICO, A VISIT TO TEHRAN BY THEN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, A VISIT OF THE SHAH'S SISTER TO MEXICO, AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN INVITATION BY PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO TO VISIT IRAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AS WELL AS THE EXPLORATION OF THE INTERESTS COMMON TO BOTH OIL RICH COUNTRIES. PANAHİ MUST BE GIVEN MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES BETWEEN THE TWO
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COUNTRIES.

3. PANAHİ IS STAUNCHLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND SEES A COMMUNITY OF US-IRANIAN INTERESTS. HE IS VERY WEALTHY AND HIS FAMILY CONNECTIONS SHOULD GUARANTEE HIS FURTHER SUCCESS IN HIS CAREER. HE SPEAKS SPANISH, FRENCH, A LITTLE RUSSIAN AND FLUENT ENGLISH. HIS ABILITY IN ITALIAN

IS UNKNOWN.

4. PANAH AND HIS ATTRACTIVE WIFE ARE REPORTEDLY PLEASED WITH THEIR NEW ASSIGNMENT. BECAUSE OF BOTH THEIR CHARM AND COMPETENCE THEY SHOULD BE A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE DIPLOMATIC SCENE OF MILAN. LUCEY

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